

# Take Care of Texas NEWS you can use

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

SEPTEMBER 2008

## Go for the Gold! (Others Will Be Green with Envy.)

The TCEQ's Texas Environmental Excellence Awards for 2009 are now open for nominations. The awards honor Texas' brightest and best environmental leaders in the Lone Star State.

The awards celebrate Texans who go for the gold not only to help the environment but to help educate others, too. By celebrating these efforts, the awards offer encouragement to others to initiate like-minded projects and reinforce a spirit of environmental stewardship across this great state. For more information and to apply, visit <[www.teea.org](http://www.teea.org)>. You may also contact Dana Macomb at 512-239-3143 or by e-mail at <[awards@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:awards@tceq.state.tx.us)>.



## CLEAN TEXAS Member Looks Down the Road

The TCEQ is proud to recognize General Motors (GM) as a Clean Texas member at the platinum level, the highest level awarded based on contributions to protecting the environment. As a leader in today's sport utility vehicle (SUV) market, GM has initiated changes that will affect the future. Specifically, GM is focusing on developing technologies that will decrease the amount of energy its vehicles will use over the vehicles' lifetimes once they hit the streets and roads.



GM's Arlington Assembly Plant produces full-size Tahoe, Suburban, Escalade, and Yukon SUVs—with hybrid versions of the Tahoe, Escalade, and Yukon (Tahoe Hybrid was named the 2008 Green Car of the Year by the Green Car Journal). It is the only manufacturing plant in the world producing hybrid systems in full-sized SUVs. The new technologies of GM's entire SUV line—hybrid and nonhybrid alike—have reduced lifetime fuel use per vehicle by more than 700 gallons of gasoline. That translates into fuel savings for the customer and a more competitive product for GM, not to mention substantial environmental benefits. GM Arlington's 2007 SUV line should reap a total lifetime energy savings of approximately 123 million gallons of gasoline.



In addition to reducing fuel usage, GM has increased

efforts to use recyclable materials in its vehicles. More than 5,670 plastic parts are now marked for recycling in each vehicle to reduce a vehicle's end-of-life impact on the environment. The approach saves the company money, is less resource-intensive, and yields lighter, more fuel-efficient vehicles.

GM's focus on the future is not limited to its products. As a Clean Texas member, the Arlington Plant fills a community-leader role as well, promoting environmental education within its region. The site developed Project GREEN to educate local middle and high school students about water quality and sampling. The site also has promoted pollution-prevention strategies through its sponsorship of local Earth Day events. General Motors and the Arlington Assembly Plant continue to demonstrate their commitment to the environment with their products, facilities, and people.

## What Should I Do With My Analog TV?

After Feb. 17, 2009, most television stations will broadcast only a digital signal, as required by the Digital Television Transportation and Public Safety Act of 2005. You will not be affected by the transition if you own a television with a digital tuner or subscribe to a TV service such as cable or satellite. With the switch from analog to digital, you can choose to extend the life of your analog set by subscribing to cable or satellite, or you may purchase a converter box. Retailers estimate selling converter boxes for \$50 to \$70. To help Americans prepare for the digital television transition, every U.S. household may request up to two, free coupons—worth \$40 each—good towards the purchase of two, certified TV converter boxes. For more information on how to get your coupons, visit <[www.dtv2009.gov/](http://www.dtv2009.gov/)>.



If you decide to buy a digital TV and no longer want your old analog set, look for opportunities to recycle it. Recycling television sets recovers valuable materials from the circuit boards, metal wiring, leaded glass, and plastics. Call your local household hazardous waste collection and recycling program to find out about any upcoming events to recycle TVs. To find a local recycling program, visit any of the following:

- <[www.CLEANUP.org](http://www.CLEANUP.org)>
- <[www.mygreenelectronics.org/](http://www.mygreenelectronics.org/)>
- <[www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/consERVE/plugin/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/consERVE/plugin/index.htm)>



## Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming TCEQ Workshops

### Low-Cost Wastewater Record-Keeping and Reporting Workshops

The TCEQ Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) program is offering three, low-cost Wastewater Record-Keeping and Reporting Workshops this fall at the following locations:

- Corpus Christi - September 30
- San Antonio - October 2
- McAllen - October 28

Attendees will receive five hours of continuing-education credit toward a wastewater license.

This workshop will offer training on how to:

- properly submit wastewater data to the TCEQ using pre-printed Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs),
- comply with common reporting requirements, and
- use electronic DMR reporting systems.

Seating is limited, so register early! If you have any questions, feel free to contact SBLGA staff at 1-800-447-2827 or go to [www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/texas\\_online](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/texas_online).

### Advanced Air Permitting Seminar

TCEQ's Air Permits Division is offering a two-day seminar in Austin, Sept. 29-30. Discussions will include: updates to federal permitting issues; different types of netting, maintenance, start-up, and shutdown; and the Modeling and Effects Review Applicability Flowchart.

TCEQ Air Permits management and other technical experts will begin the seminar with a question-and-answer session.

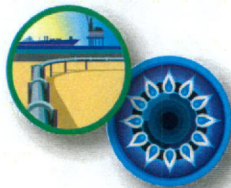
Technical presentations will cover several key areas, including:

- a toxicology overview,
- the State Implementation Plan,
- deviation reporting for Title V permits,
- inspection and enforcement and the role of TCEQ's regional offices,
- use of the infrared camera in emissions detection.

This seminar is designed for engineers, environmental staff or managers of permitted facilities, consultants, and owners of businesses or industrial facilities operating in Texas who are knowledgeable and experienced in air quality permitting, rules, and regulations.

For more information or to register, visit [www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/events](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/events).

Additionally, the seminar includes a **Workshop for Oil and Gas Facilities on Sunday, Sept. 28**. To register for this workshop, visit [www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/events](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/events).



## Workshop on Developing Pollution Prevention Plans Scheduled for Fall

The TCEQ in cooperation with the Zero Waste Network will conduct a series of interactive workshops to teach companies how to develop effective pollution prevention (P2) plans that save money and improve efficiency. Presenters include experts in pollution prevention, environmental management systems (EMS), environmental regulations, and energy efficiency.

Registration is open now! Receive a \$50 discount on registration if you register two weeks prior to the workshop you wish to attend.

\*Register online at: [www.zerowastenetwork.org/workshops/p2workshops.cfm](http://www.zerowastenetwork.org/workshops/p2workshops.cfm).

### Workshop Schedule:

- Austin, September 16-17, 2008
- Houston, October 2-3, 2008
- Corpus Christi, October 15-16, 2008
- Fort Worth, November 5-6, 2008

## Beach Cleanups Scheduled

The Texas General Land Office Adopt-a-Beach program has scheduled its fall 2008 cleanups for Sept. 27. This year, there are 28 sites along the Texas coast. For a complete listing of sites and how to sign up, please go to [www.glo.state.tx.us/adopt-a-beach/participate.html](http://www.glo.state.tx.us/adopt-a-beach/participate.html).



## New TCEQ Publications

*What Do I Do With It Now? A Quick Guide to Recycling Resources, GI-288*, is a short guide to recycling information available through recycling resources in your community.

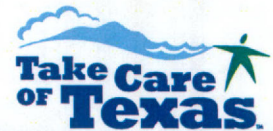
*Outdoor Burning in Texas, RG-049*, helps to interpret the revised Outdoor Burning Rule, 30 TAC 111.201-221, for the general public, the regulated community, and state and local officials.

To order these publications, go to TCEQ's Publications Catalog at [www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications).

## Take Care of Texas Tip

### Around the House Use Native Plants

Plants that are native to Texas aren't only beautiful; they typically require less water, pesticides, fertilizers and maintenance—saving you time and money. The deep root systems of many native plants also increase the soil's capacity to store water, reducing runoff.



[www.takecareoftexas.org](http://www.takecareoftexas.org)

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